

W/C Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### Elm Class Library Trip



Elm Class enjoyed a lovely trip to Higham Hill Library last week. They took part in a story session led by the librarian and then had some free time to explore the library and its books. Orla brought her library card with her and shared with her friends what a library

card is and how a library works.

Each child was given a library book pack containing a book and some resources. I hope you all enjoyed reading this story with your child. Trips to the library and reading at home are wonderful ways of nurturing a love of books for your child.



### Get Well Soon Miss Lidija

Please join us in sending get well wishes to Miss Lidija, who has been absent from school, recovering from an appendicectomy last week. We miss her dearly and look forward to welcoming her back.



### Summer Holiday Club

Booking forms will be sent this week regarding our Summer Holiday Club. We are proposing to run this club from the 24<sup>th</sup> July – 11<sup>th</sup> August. Please ensure booking forms are returned by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to request your child's place.

Confirmation letters and invoices will be sent after this date to confirm places.

### Important Diary Dates

- Penrhyn School Photos - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Children's House School Photos – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Artist of the Term

Our *Artist of the Term* for the summer is Picasso. The children have begun exploring how Picasso used colour and shape in his work, particularly through creating their own self-portraits. They will continue exploring Picasso's style throughout the term and looking at some books to become more familiar with him and his work.



*We break up for the half-term on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Tea Timers as usual). School resumes on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.*

### Parents' Corner

#### Cycling School

The upcoming Spring Half-Term Cycling school is a free initiative available for ages 4+ delivered by the Council's partners Cycle Confident. The training is in person and takes place at Leyton Jubilee Park. Please see poster in our Penrhyn noticeboard for more details.



#### 'Share a Story' Month

The borough are celebrating national 'Share a Story' month with sessions in Walthamstow, Higham Hill, Chingford, Lea Bridge and Wood Street Libraries. "Come dressed as one of your favourite book characters

and share a page with family and friends or with library staff in our rhyme time session."

## Book of the Week

Dim Sum, Please!  
By  
Lin and Edwin Choi



### Class Information:

#### Children's House

Lots of lovely learning relating to Africa last week. The children have all been showing lots of enthusiasm and interest in this topic especially through their fascination of animals in this region.

We started the week off by identifying Africa on the Puzzle Map. We discussed the size and the children noticed that it is the next largest continent after Asia. The children learnt some interesting facts about Africa. They learnt that it is made up of more than 50 countries and that there are over 1000 languages spoken in this continent. The children also learnt to say hello in Swahili (hamjambo). We looked at the climate and landscape of Africa and terminology such as savannah; desert and rainforest were introduced to the children. We also discussed the type of animals that we would see in these types of habitats.

During the week the children also looked at a traditional Nigerian costume that is worn during special events. The children got a chance to touch and feel the woven fabric. They also tried on beaded African jewellery. Mila also brought in an African necklace to show her friends and we talked about the colours and the patterns.



working with reading cards.

We have been working with lots of activities relating to animals found in Africa. The children have been matching phonetic sounds to animals whilst others have been

In Maths, we have been exploring the concept of measurement. We looked at the footprints of different animals and compared the shape and size. The children were able to recognise and identify the footprints of animals such as elephants, rhinoceros, zebra, giraffes, cheetahs and lions. We continued our learning of measurements during our out and about session where we looked at the actual footprint size of these animals. The children were introduced to methods of measuring length and width. We talked about units of



measurements and the children had a chance to measure the sizes of the footprints using a ruler and a tape measure. We also counted how many of our feet could actually make up the size of an elephant's footprint.

Our learning surrounding African was complemented in Art, where the children created a beautiful landscape of the Serengeti. Miss Alex talked about the landscape, animals and trees that were typically seen. The children were shown how to create sunset colours, using yellow initially at the top of the paper and then gradually blending red towards the bottom. They used cut-out silhouettes of their favourite animal and a native tree to complete their artwork.

We celebrated Alanna's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday last week. She shared some lovely pictures of herself, and family and the children



enjoyed singing the birthday song while she did her Birthday Walk!

This week we will continue our learning of the continents – this time focussing on Asia. We will locate Asia on the Continent Globe and Map of the World and identify some of the countries that are found in Asia. We will also look at their flags, some famous landmarks and learn how to say hello in some of the different languages. If you have any artefacts or clothing from

Asia, please bring it in so that we could set up a culture area for the children to explore.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

A busy week in Elm class learning about animals in the continent of Africa. We located Africa on the puzzle map, and we talked about different animals found in this continent. We used our numeracy skills to compare sizes of the animals and worked with our visual sense to guess their silhouettes. We learnt new vocabulary such as wildebeest and ostrich and were able to make predictions on whether we thought these animals were fast or slow.



For our 'out and about' session this week and to complement our learning around Africa the children were invited to make their own African necklace. We painted pasta and used our fine motor skills to thread the pasta onto string, making our own patterns and designs.

In literacy we complemented our focus on the phonetic sound 'a' by practicing the letter formation and recognising the letter. The children then enjoyed taking turns in writing on the whiteboard.



The class enjoyed a lovely trip to the library. The librarian read us a story and then children were able to freely explore the books. Orla shared with the class how a library works, and she showed her friends her own library card which she had with her. Reading to your child is such an important activity in child development. It strengthens their brain function as well as expanding their vocabulary and encouraging conversation.

This week we will be concentrating on the continent of Asia. We will learn that Asia is the largest of the continents and identify it on the Montessori puzzle map as well as identify Europe and Africa. We will discuss some facts including that Asia is home to 2300 languages. It is also home to the highest mountain in the world ; Everest. We will talk about the animals of

Asia and how important it is to protect the environment of many endangered species. Our sound of the week will be 'p' for panda.

## Kindergarten - Beech Class

We have continued to learn more about Continents where we focused on Africa. The children were able to locate Africa on the map, we discussed the climate and linked it to our last term topic, weather, where we looked at clothing that people in Africa wear due to the climate. We looked at different cultures and linked it to a few photographs provided by me from my tribe. The children took turns to feel the traditional outfit and necklace which originated from Nigeria.



The

children each made their own traditional necklace made from painted pasta. They showed great concentration as they threaded each pasta



through the hole one at a time. The outcome was lovely as each of them made their unique design.

During our "Out and About session", we looked at ways people have fun in Nigeria and focused on one of the traditional games called "Ayo Opon". This game is played mostly by the Yoruba tribe who reside in the Southwestern part of Nigeria. It is known as "A game of the intellectual" as it is believed that it requires lots of mathematical skills and children are often encouraged to play this game. The children demonstrated good enthusiasm as well as concentration skills throughout this game. They also practiced fine and gross motor skills as well as counting the seeds as they played along.



In addition, we looked at different animals that can

be found in Africa. Alba contributed to our learning by bringing in some animal replicas that can be found in Zambia and a Zambian flag. We discussed the colours and shape seen on the Zambian flag. Thank you for sharing these, Alba!

Afterwards we played the "Who am I?" game. This game encouraged the children to be more descriptive when trying to be an animal. Rather than using the sound of the animal, we practised describing patterns, shape, sizes, and other distinctive parts of each animal that enabled the children to guess which animals their peer was talking about. For example, rather than roaring to guess the lion, we described the size of its head, the small waist as well as its tail. We then turned this into a song at the end of the game using an African drum.



We ended the week with an African silhouette art activity where the children made a sunset effect using red and yellow paint with a sponge. The children then chose their preferred African animals to be on their paintings.

Thank you parents for your amazing contribution so far towards our display board. We can't wait to share the picture with you all once it is ready.

This week, we look forward to looking at the continent of Asia. The children will learn to identify Asia on the map and understand that it is the largest continent. They will also learn to compare the Geometric shapes to the landmarks. We will talk about the culture, food, music, and art in Asia. We will look at some of the countries and animals that reside in Asia such as the Panda in China and Tigers in India.

Our phonetic sound of the week is 't', for example, 't' in tiger. To extend our learning, we will be thinking of other words beginning with 't'. We would appreciate if you can send in safe objects or pictures to help the children link our classroom learning to objects from home. These can be brought in any day throughout the week or on a

Wednesday so we can use it during our phonic session.

## Sycamore Class

We had really nice week learning about the African continent. We played games and enjoyed learning interesting facts about Africa and their people, the culture, animals, and climate.

We learned to identify Africa in the Montessori Continents Globe and on the Puzzle Map. We were naming some of the countries in Africa and learning how to say hello in African languages. We learned that Africa has the longest river in the world which is the river Nile!

Children enjoyed talking about the Sahara Desert and this encouraged a discussion about hot weather.

We looked at animals living in Africa and compared their sizes (elephants, lions, zebras, hippopotamus, and many more!).

We explored different pictures of African people and



looked at their clothes and fashion. The children felt the different textures of fabric that traditional African clothing can be made of. In particular, we looked at Nigerian traditional dress brought in and shared with the children by Miss Florence.

The children enjoyed painting pasta and making their own necklaces as we saw that African people wear a lot of colourful jewellery made from different materials like cotton, wool, or wood. All the children showed lots of patience and interest while making these colourful necklaces and we had parents tell us they had worn them all day until bedtime! It's lovely to hear that the children are enjoying talking about their learning and showing their crafts at home.



*Here is a lovely photo of some Sycamore Class children enjoying their snack at the snack table. The snack table is a lovely social space for the children to enjoy together, as well as practicing the practical life skills of cutting fruit or spreading butter.*

This week we will be learning about Asia, the largest continent of the world. There are art activities planned to help children understand about their people, culture, animals, and the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest.

## **Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings**

Last week in the nursery, we learned all about Africa. The children discovered the different animals on the African animals such as elephants, lions and zebras. The nursery children discovered that some animals are carnivores, and some are herbivores. They were also surprised to find out that there are no tigers in Africa as some people would believe; in fact these are native to India. We used a hand tracing and finger-painting technique to create the pattern of a giraffe!



The children also learned about African culture and the tribes in Africa. They made colourful necklaces and bracelets using painted pasta to represent the jewellery worn by women on the African continent. We also learned a call-and-response song called Toom-bah-ee-leroh from Western Africa. The children showed us their dance

moves to the sound of the African drum, and they all had great fun.

This week, we will focus on the continent of Asia. Each day, the children will discover a country from the continent and will learn more about the animals we can find there. Another fun week ahead for the nursery!

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



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